

VII.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.**Dabbene on Argentine Birds.*

[Las especies y subespecies Argentinas de los géneros *Geositta* Swainson y *Cinclodes* Gray por Roberto Dabbene. An. Mus. Nac. Hist. Nat. Buenos Aires, xxx. 1919, pp. 113-195; 7 text-figs.; 2 maps.]

Two years ago Dr. Dabbene published preliminary descriptions of several new forms of these two genera, and he now fulfils a promise then made and has given us a very complete review of the Argentine species and subspecies. The recent zoological exploration of the extreme north-east corner of Argentina bordering on Bolivia and Chili shows undoubted promise of new and interesting zoological discoveries, and it is from this region that Dr. Dabbene's new form of *Geositta* was obtained, while the two new *Cinclodes* were collected in Hermite Island in the immediate vicinity of Cape Horn.

Dr. Dabbene's revision of these two genera is very complete. The synonymy and list of references are very full and exact, and are followed by full descriptions with complete list of localities, of the actual specimens examined chiefly in the Buenos Aires Museum, but also in the collections of other Museums and of some private collectors.

The paper is illustrated with topographical photographs and two maps showing the exact geographical relations of the various species and races.

Forrest on the Fauna of North Wales.

[A Handbook to the Vertebrate Fauna of North Wales. By H. E. Forrest. London: 1919, pp. 1-106.]

It will be remembered by our readers that Mr. Forrest published in 1907 a Fauna of the Counties of Anglesey, Carnarvon, Denbigh, Flint, Merioneth, and Montgomery. That work, which met a distinct want and was excellently conceived, chronicled the records of the past, brought these records up to date, and described in most interesting fashion the life-histories of the various species. The present little volume furnishes a synopsis of the same Fauna, gives further

records which extend the range in many cases, and acts as a complete vade mecum for those interested in the subject.

Of special interest are the prehistoric Lynx, the Rorquals, the Barred Warbler, the Black Redstart, the Harriers, and the Crane, while the Bats and Fishes are most important items, which must not be overlooked. The continued prosperity of the colonies of Roseate Terns and the regular breeding of the Black-necked Grebe furnish particularly pleasant reading to the lover of birds.

Further notes on North Welsh zoologists, a section on Extinct Mammals, and *Corrigenda* to the earlier work, show that the present is to be taken to some extent as supplementary to it.

Hudson on British Birds.

[Birds in Town and Village. By W. H. Hudson. London, Toronto, and New York: 1919, pp. 1-274; 8 col. pls.]

This book is in the main a reprint of the author's 'Birds in a Village,' a very popular account of the species met with in a single locality, though it gives a good idea of those likely to be found in many a southern county—their abundance, increase, or decrease. There are several emendations and considerable omissions.

The new feature of the book is a supplementary portion consisting of short Essays:—such, for instance, as those on "Birds in a Cornish village," and on "Exotic Birds." The latter comprises a plea for the introduction of foreign birds, especially those of beautiful plumage or interesting habits. We are afraid that most of our readers will hardly agree with Mr. Hudson on this point, though so controversial a subject cannot be discussed in our limited space.

Shufeldt on a Philippine Gallinule.

[The Osteology of the Giant Gallinule of the Philippines, *Porphyrio pulverulentus* Temminck. By R. W. Shufeldt. Philip. Journ. Orn. xiv. No. 1. Manila: 1919.]

A highly technical article in the careful and exact method customary with the well-known author, wherein he compares the skeleton of this gigantic paludicoline bird with that

of *Fulica americana*. He still considers it a close ally of *Notornis*, and emphasizes the great want of pneumaticity in the bones, common to other marsh birds. The comparison shows great similarity in the skeletons of the two birds, though there are considerable differences in the cranium; while the bones of *Fulica* are naturally much more delicate.

On the whole the differences are distinctly generic, as might have been expected.

The *Porphyrio* has now been found in four of the Philippine islands.

Tori.

[‘*Tori.*’ The Aves. Bulletin of the Ornithological Society of Japan, Vol. ii. no. 8, 1919.]

[On the migration of some Waders at the mouth of the Rokugo River. By Nagamichi Kuroda. Published by the Ornithological Society of Japan, 1919.]

The last part of the publication of the Japanese Ornithological Society, which we have received through the kindness of Mr. N. Kuroda, has, we are glad to say, a translation of the title and contents, so that it is possible for those not conversant with Japanese to know at least what is to be found within its pages.

The frontispiece is the reproduction of a photograph of a flock of waterfowl on the outer moat of the Imperial Palace in Tokio, and the first paper, by Mr. T. Momiyama, deals with some specimens of birds from Saghalin Island in the Sepporo Museum.

Messrs. Y. Kuroda and J. Miyakoda give the dates of the migration of the commoner birds in the vicinity of Seoul in Corea, and Mr. Kawaguchi writes on the sexual distinctions of the Himalayan Cuckoo and illustrates his remarks with some figures. By far the longest paper is the last—by Messrs. T. Momiyama and M. Nomura—entitled “Notes on some birds from Iruma-gun in the Prefecture of Saitama.” It deals with 138 species, and is illustrated by a map and a good many small photo-blocks.

With the part, the contents of which are noted above,

Mr. Kuroda has sent us a copy of his paper on the migration of some of the commoner waders of Japan, which runs to a good many pages and is evidently of considerable importance. It is also published by the Japanese Ornithological Society. It would certainly be of the greatest assistance to European ornithologists if, at any rate, a short summary in some European language of these doubtless valuable researches could be appended to the original Japanese.

List of other Ornithological Publications received.

- BONHOTE, T. L. Bird-liming in Lower Egypt. (Cairo, 1919.)
 HOPKINSON, E. A List of the Birds of the Gambia. (Brighton, 1919.)
 MATHEWS, G. M. Austral Avian Record. (Vol. iii. no. 7.)
 MULLENS, W. H., SWANN, H. K., and JOURDAIN, F. C. R. A Geographical Bibliography of British Ornithology. Part 1. (1919.)
 SWANN, H. K. Synoptical List of the Accipitres. (Part 2.)
 THORBURN, A. A Naturalist's Sketch-Book.
 WITHERBY, H. F. A Practical Handbook of British Birds. (Part 5.)
 Avicultural Magazine. (Vol. x. no. 12.)
 Bulletin of the Pan-American Union. (Aug. 1919.)
 France. (1918, no. 1.)
 Journal of the Natural History Society of Siam. (Vol. iii. no. 3.)
 Revista Centro de Cultura Cientifica. (1919, no. 4.)
 Revue Française d'Ornithologie. (Nos. 124-125.)
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VIII.—*Letters, Extracts, and Notes.*

DEAR SIR,—The following observations of birds were made by me whilst on board the Liverpool steamer 'Ikala,' and may be of interest to your readers.

On 1 November, when the ship was in Lat. 49° 30' N., Long. 30° W.—roughly 750 miles west of the south of Ireland—quite a stream of land-birds visited it. At 8 A.M., G.M.T., there were resting on board or circling round several Chaffinches (all males), two Starlings, one Missel Thrush, four Skylarks, and one Kittiwake. Half a gale was blowing from the east, and a long heavy swell from that direction indicated a storm between us and the land. At 2 P.M. a Skua came aboard in an exhausted condition, and